IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE, ANDHRA PRADESH
AT HYDERABAD

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

MONDAY, THE TWENTY EIGHTH DAY OF FEBRUARY
TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MS JUSTICE G.ROHINI

WRIT PETITION NO : 3743 of 2005

Between:

Mohd. Asadullah Aleem, S/o. Mohd. Abdullah,
R/o. Kalapathar, Aqsa Colony, Hyderabad.

... PETITIONER

AND

The Passport Officer, Ministry of External Affairs,
H.No. 8-2-215 to 219, Adjacent to Prashant Theatre,
Kummarguda, Secunderabad.

...RESPONDENT

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the Affidavit filed herein the High Court may be pleased to pass an order or direction or writ under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of the respondent in not considering my application dated 25-1-2005 for change of my date of birth as 3-11-1970 instead of 24-10-1967 in the passport bearing No. A-5765957 as illegal, arbitrary, bad and against the principles of natural justice and consequently direct the respondent to correct my date of birth as 3-11-1970 in the place of 24-10-1967 in Passport bearing No. A-5765957.

Counsel for the Petitioner: Mr.C.DAMODHAR REDDY

Counsel for the Respondent: Mr.A.RAJASHEKAR REDDY (SC FOR CG)

The Court made the following :

ORDER:

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned standing counsel for the Central Government appearing for the respondent-Passport Authority-Passport Authority.

It is the case of the petitioner that his actual date of birth is 03-11-1970, but in the passport issued to him by the respondent-Passport Authority on 29.12.1988, his date of birth was wrongly mentioned as 24-10-1967. Thereafter his passport expired and fresh passport was issued by the respondent on 29.06.1998 and in said passport also his date of birth is wrongly mentioned. The petitioner made a representation to the respondent-Passport Authority on 25.01.205 to alter his date of birth in the Passport and issue fresh passport. So far, no orders have been passed by the respondent-Passport Authority on the representation made by the petitioner. Aggrieved by the said inaction on the part of the respondent, this writ petition is filed.

It is required to be noticed that there is no provision under the Passports Act, 1967, which empowers the Regional Passport Officer to correct entries in the Passport. However, pursuant to the judgment of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in W.P.No.1072 of 2000, the Government of India issued instructions/clarifications in Circular dated 18-04-2001, which are to the following effect:

> " (a) Where an applicant is seeking rectification/correction of a mistake in the entry on date of birth/place of birth is the passport, PIA (Passport Issuing Authority) may after verifying/satisfying himself, effect the correction treating the same as a technical correction. There is no need for a declaratory order in such cases.
>
> (b) Where a competent authority issuing a birth certificate or an educational board registering a date of birth along with place of birth as valid were to issue any correction or amendment, PIA may effect the necessary amendment in the passport without insisting on a Court Order. As per the provisions of Section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1997, a competent authority issuing a certificate could also make necessary amendments to the same.
>
> (c) Where the initial entry has been made on the basis of a supportive document issued by one competent authority i.e., school/educational authority and the applicant subsequently requests for a change on the basis of a certificate issued by another competent authority i.e., municipal authorities resulting in conflicting sources of valid proof, the

PIA should direct the applicant to obtain a civil order from a competent court of jurisdiction, certifying the valid date of birth/place of birth."

As on today, if any request for correction of date of birth in the passport is made, the Passport Issuing Authority is required to follow the aforementioned instructions. In that view of the matter, the respondent ought to have considered the application of the petitioner for fresh passport in the light of the above instructions in Circular dated 18-04-2001.

Therefore, the Writ Petition is disposed of with a direction to the respondent to consider the request of the petitioner afresh on the basis of his application dated 25.01.2005 for issuance of fresh passport with correct date of birth and process the same after verifying the genuineness or otherwise thereof basing on the documents the petitioner may file in support of his case for change of date of birth, in the light of the aforementioned guidelines, and pass appropriate orders.

With the above directions, the writ petition is disposed of. No costs.

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28.02.2005

Note : Furnish C.C. in three days.

(B/O)

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To

1. The Passport Officer, Ministry of External Affairs,
   H.No. 8-2-215 to 219, Adjacent to Prashant Theatre,
   Kummarguda, Secunderabad.

2 Two CD copies